

Community Preservation Act Committee Draft Meeting October 7, 2014 Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance:

Sandra Anderson, Paris Boice, Jim Brissette, Marilyn Blaustein, Peter Jessup (Chair), Ellen Kosmer, Jim Oldham, Mary Streeter (Vice-Chair).

Members Absent;

Laura Lovett

Agenda Items to be discussed:

- Discussion of CPA Plan Public Forum
- Discussion and vote on CPA Surcharge BALLOT QUESTION
- Review Request for CPA Proposals letter and criteria for submitted Proposals
- Review submittal deadline date (Dec. 10, 2014) and meeting dates for coming year.
- Review and approve minutes
- Topics Chair did not anticipate 48 hours before meeting

The Meeting was called to order by Peter Jessop at 7:05, Town Room, Town Hall

Discussion of CPA Plan Pubic Forum

Much of the meeting was given over to a discussion of the committee's view on what we observed and learned from the Public Forum, and where do we go from here. It was the consensus of the committee that the community input was heavily weighted toward recreation, but that this did not necessarily reflect the views of the whole of the Amherst Community.

Jim Oldham indicated that the public forum should be regarded as a start of a process that deals first with broad questions and concerns. Sandy suggested that we look at the Master Plan as our guiding tool and Paris thought we should establish goals for each of the categories. Mary felt it was important to establish our priorities as we establish goals.

Vince O'Connor, member of the public, said that since much of the public input centered on maintenance of playing fields we should get a commitment from the town that it would maintain the fields. He also spoke to his concern, also voiced at the public meeting, that support of affordable housing should be a priority.

In discussion of Open Space Dave Ziomek brought up the question of whether CPA funds could/should be used for maintenance. Paris said that any type of land acquisition should include a maintenance plan.

The committee decided to request from LSSE an update on the state of playing fields.

Paris volunteered to do an overview of other Town's plans for the Nov. 18th meeting. Also for the Nov.18th meeting, Sandy will report on the Amherst Master Plan, Dave will look at housing production plans and recreation plans and send links, and Peter will send links to housing plan.

Discussion and vote on CPA Surcharge BALLOT QUESTION

Motion by Jim Oldham to endorse question 5 in the affirmative Second, Paris Boice

Discussion centered on the advantages of having more funds to support affordable housing, and other community projects. Sandy voiced concerns about using CPA funding for maintenance, which she and several other committee members thought should not be achieved through CPA funding.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mary Streeter to authorized Peter Jessop to write op-ed piece for Bulletin in support of Question 5. Second, Marilyn Blaustein
In the discussion of this motion it was agreed that other members of the committee could also write letters in support of question 5.
Motion passed Unanimously.

Review Request for CPA Proposals letter and criteria for submitted Proposals

Some verbal changes in wording and format were adopted to increase clarity in both the letter and the criteria. Add a question about how CPA investment in a property or facility will be maintained over time.

Review submittal deadline date (Dec. 10, 2014) and meeting dates for coming year.

The dates as listed on the October 7th agenda were accepted as presented.

Minutes of Sep. 16 and 30 were approved as amended. Voted unanimously.

Motion to adjourn at 9:10: by Sandy, Second by Mary. Voted unanimously.

Documents

Agenda
Request for CPA Proposals letter
Draft Minutes of September 16 & 30, 2014
Email from Robert Romer, 10/1/14
Call for CPA Proposals Letter 10/23/13

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ellen Kosmer, Acting Clerk
Approved January 6, 2015